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Letter dated 13 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the note verbale from the Government of Burundi concerning the murder of two United Nations officials on a humanitarian assistance mission in Rutana Province, Burundi (see annex).

I should like to request that the note verbale be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Note verbale from the Government of Burundi concerning the murder of two United Nations officials on a humanitarian assistance mission in Rutana Province, Burundi

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Burundi presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and wishes to inform him of the following.

1. The Government of Burundi is deeply shocked and horrified by the murder of several officials on a humanitarian assistance mission in Rutana Province, in the Muzye area, near the border with the United Republic of Tanzania, on the morning of 12 October 1999. Among those officials were Mr. Luis Manuel Zuñiga and Ms. Saskia Louise Von Meijenfeldt, the UNICEF representative and the Logistics Chief for the World Food Programme in Burundi, respectively.

2. The Government of Burundi strongly condemns these barbarous acts perpetrated by terrorists fearing neither God nor man, particularly against the two officials in the service of United Nations humanitarian agencies operating in Burundi. It deeply regrets this deplorable situation and offers its most sincere condolences to His Excellency Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, to the executive heads of UNICEF in New York and of the World Food Programme in Rome, to the representatives of those agencies in Bujumbura, and to the victims' families.

3. The Government of Burundi strongly urges humanitarian and international cooperation agencies operating in Burundi not to give way to intimidation by these terrorists.

4. The Government of Burundi will continue to make every effort to ensure the protection of all personnel, both expatriate and Burundian, working for humanitarian organizations operating on its soil.

5. The Government of Burundi reiterates the urgent request for regional cooperation, in particular with the United Republic of Tanzania, in tracking down and eliminating such terrorism, which operates without any moral or political justification as has just been flagrantly demonstrated by these vile acts against members of humanitarian organizations and innocent civilians.

6. The Government of Burundi will conduct all the necessary investigations and will bring the full force of the law and justice to bear against all conspirators and perpetrators of these horrible crimes.